Areas of Interest

El Mirage Dry Lake Bed

The main feature of the El Mirage OHV Area is a 4,800 acre dry playa lake bed in the southwestern portion of the area. The lake bed is the focus of activity in the area due to its unique features compared to the surrounding desert. Many special types of recreation depend on a smooth, flat surface. Examples of these are land yachts, model airplanes, ultra-light aircraft and gyrocopters, and parasails. During the summer (except August), the Southern California Timing Association races in time-trial events one weekend every month. Speeds have been recorded over 300 miles per hour during these events!

Shadow Mountains

The north boundary and the area to the east of the lake bed are bounded by the rugged Shadow Mountains and little Shadow Mountains. These sharp peaks are somewhat difficult for casual riders, but are the destination for the experienced rider. The sheltered canyons in these mountains make great secluded camp sites. There are many abandoned mines that have been used by riders as obstacle courses. Be careful in these areas, and scout ahead to avoid open pits that may not be marked inside the area.

The Basin

Between the lake bed and the mountains is the El Mirage Basin. The Basin has many varieties of desert vegetation, from the predominant creosote bush, to rabbit brush, Joshua trees, and some cactus species. The basin is crossed by many trails that run through washes and over some rough terrain making for a moderately challenging riding experience. There are also abandoned, unimproved roads in the area that provide good opportunities for beginner riders.

Twin Hills Area

Between Highway 395 and the Shadow Mountains is the Twin Hills area. These hills are rounded and give a moderate to easy terrain for riding. Since the little Shadow Mountains isolate this area from the lake bed crowds, many return visitors make camp in this area. There are many trails through heavy vegetation and washes, interspersed with large clearings.

Lake Bed Activities

Wind Powered Vehicles

Land yachts and kite buggies use the lake bed for club meets and for casual recreation. Wind is part of the El Mirage environment occasionally reaching speeds over 60 miles per hour. The wind and a solid surface makes for an ideal area for wind powered vehicles. Care should be taken by passenger car drivers and other motor vehicle operators to yield to these wind powered vehicles, because land yachts and buggies are not as maneuverable as motorized vehicles and have no brakes for making quick stops.

Ultra-lights, Gyrocopters, and other Aircraft

The lake bed is an ideal landing site for a variety of aircraft. The surface is hard with many smooth sections for landing and taxiing. The BLM recognizes aircraft-related activities as a substantial part of the El Mirage visitation. The area is used by ultra-lights, gyrocopters, parasails, as well as full-sized aircraft. There are also many people that fly gliders and sail planes in the area. For safety sake, watch for aircraft when traveling through the area since aircraft need a clear area to land. Ground vehicles should yield to aircraft. Federal Aviation Administration regulations restrict landings to daylight hours only and to an altitude of no less than 500 feet above any concentration of people.

Model Airplanes and Model Rockets

There are many people who fly remote control aircraft on El Mirage Dry Lake. In recent years, there has been an increased interest in the lake bed for use by model rockets as well. People who fly remote control aircraft need a small area to park and tend to gather at the southeast end of the lake bed at an area known as Model Plane Way.

General Riding and Driving

The maximum speed limit is 15 miles per hour within 50 feet of camps and staging areas. During permitted events, special speed limits and traffic restrictions are posted. Please watch for these events. To maintain this smooth surface, drifting and donuts are prohibited, and the lake bed is closed when wet or muddy ! The California Highway Patrol, San Bernardino Sheriffs, and BLM Rangers patrol the area to encourage safe use by the visiting public.

Emergency Services

If **Emergency Services** are required, your first response should be to **call 911.** The nearest Ranger can be contacted by calling the **Federal Interagency Communication Center (FICC)** at **(909) 383-5651** or **(888) 233-6518.**

Lost Person
If a member of your party becomes lost, don't panic. Make a note of where the person was last seen and at what time. Call 911 to report the situation.

Injured Person
It is usually best not to transport an injured person away from an accident scene before medical personnel arrive. Moving a victim improperly can make an injury worse, particularly when the injury is to the head, neck, or back area. If possible, send someone or call 911 to report the incident.

Nearest Hospitals

Victor Valley Community Hospital **15248 11th St.** **Victorville, CA 92392** **(760) 245-8691**	**St. Mary Medical Center** **18300 Highway 18** **Apple Valley, CA 92308** **(760) 242-2311**

El Mirage Cooperative Management Area is a fee area. Each vehicle driven into the area is required to have a special recreation permit.

Permits:
$15 for a one day permit, valid till noon the next day
$30 for a weekly permit, valid for 7 days
$90 for a season permit, valid from October 1st to September 30th
Permits will be available for sale on-site.

Phone Numbers:

BLM Barstow Field Office	(760) 252-6000
Group, Event, Permit Information	(760) 252-6000
Filming/Photography Permit Information	(951) 779-6700
El Mirage OHV Area Recorded Information	(760) 388-4411
BLM Volunteer Program	(760) 252-6011
Friends of El Mirage	www.elmirage.org

HDL
7-18-13
Depositing
Item

Managed By;
United States Department of Interior
Bureau Of Land Management
2601 Barstow Road
Barstow, California 92311

http://www.blm.gov/ca/barstow

BLM/CA/GI-2007-012+8300 (Rev. 10/2010)

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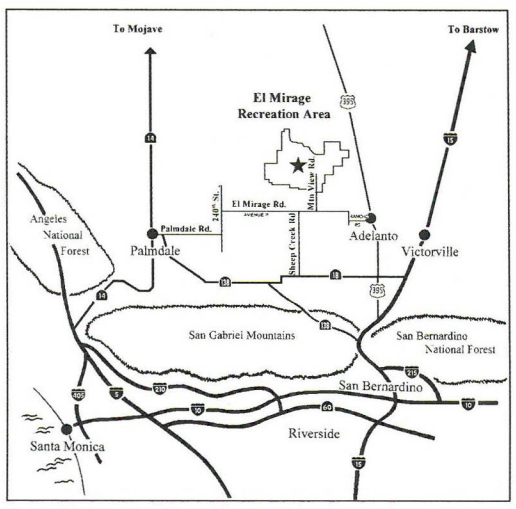
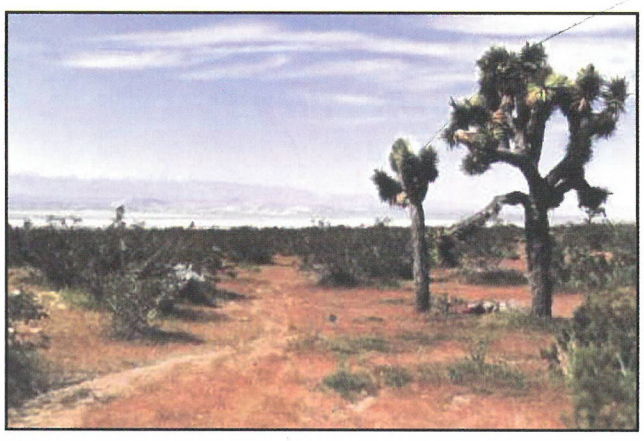
BLM

The El Mirage Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Area is located in the Mojave Desert on the western edge of San Bernardino County near the Los Angeles County Line. This off-highway vehicle riding area attracts a variety of activities including motorcycles, ATVs, trucks, cars, buggies, land yachts, model airplanes, model rockets, ultra-light aircraft, gyrocopters, parasails, and full-sized aircrafts.



The areas of interest include the El Mirage Dry Lake Bed, the Shadow Mountains, the El Mirage Basin, and the Twin Hills area that make up the 24,400 acre project area of public and private land.



Elevation ranges from about 2,800 feet at the El Mirage Dry Lake to over 3,800 feet in the Shadow Mountains. During summer months, temperatures can reach 120 degrees F. Summer thunder storms can come in with spectacular force, although most of the minimal precipitation falls in the winter months. Winter lows can fall to 5 degrees F. at night, with highs in the 60 to 70 degree F. range during the day. Spring and fall temperatures range between the extremes of winter and summer.

Barstow Field Office

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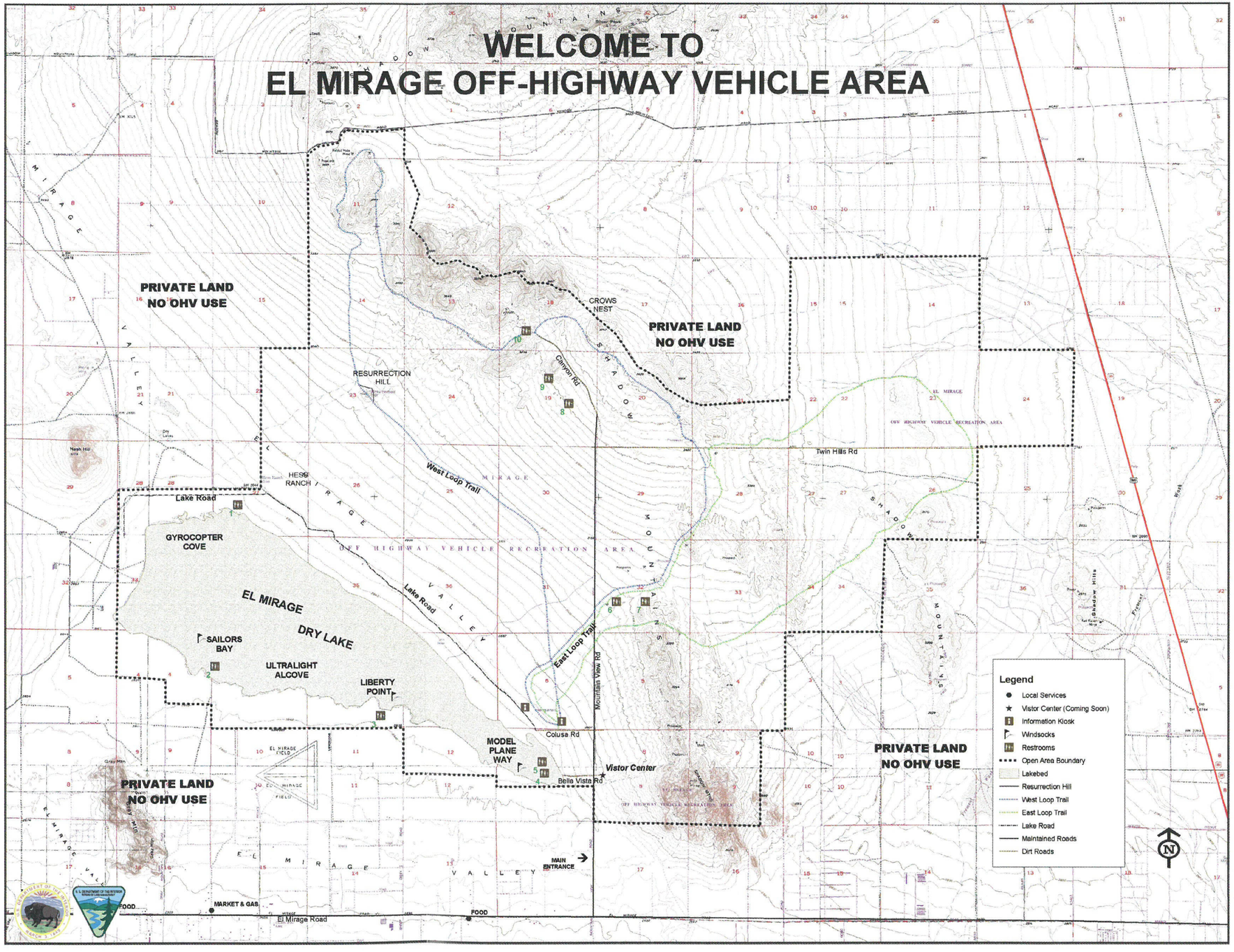
IMPORTANT RULES & REGULATIONS

- OHVs owned by California residents must be registered with the California DMV and must display a valid "Green Sticker" or "Red Sticker"
- If you are NOT a resident of California and your OHV is not registered in your home state, you are required to have a **NON-RESIDENT Green Sticker** OHV permit
- On the ground, motorized vehicles should yield to non-motorized craft and aircraft.
- The lake bed is CLOSED to all users where WET or MUDDY and spins and donuts are prohibited
- OHVs must be equipped with an approved muffler, brakes, and spark arrester
- It is illegal for anyone who is under the influence of alcohol or drugs to operate an OHV
- It is illegal to bring, dispose of, or possess any **glass container**, empty or not, within the open area
- It is illegal to bring, dispose of, or possess any **firewood** containing nails, screws or other metal hardware within the open area. **NO PALLETS!**
- The El Mirage OHV Area is a NO SHOOTING AREA. This includes BB guns, paint guns, and bow & arrows
- It is illegal to possess and/or discharge fireworks
- Persons on an ATV under 14 years of age must be supervised by a parent or guardian
- All persons, regardless of age, who operate an ATV on Public Lands must wear an approved safety helmet
- Carrying passengers is prohibited on ATVs